

misery and horror are necessary that his perfections may be revealed.

But there can be no help for one who makes choice of evil, unless that choice is definitely abandoned. Volition swings wide the gate which leadeth to destruction. That way lies the bottomless pit, and a man may even elect to leap into it. It is inconceivable that a sane man make such an election. The choice is itself proof of insanity. There is such a thing as moral insanity, and it probably counts the most victims. Some one has said that the world is one vast lunatic asylum. He who is sane in mind and soul will turn to God as the sun flower to the sun. Let us think God's thoughts, drink into our souls his love, bathe in the river of his peace, so that the wholeness of holiness may bring into our souls, even in this feeble tenement, the earnest of that joy and power which shall be the blessed fruition of the everlasting life.

A Much Needed Lesson

Pastors who are in the habit of announcing sensational subjects with the hope of "drawing a crowd," will find a much needed lesson in the following from the *Christian Advocate*.—

One of the most evangelical ministers of this city, who gives his life to the saving of souls and the upbuilding of believers, announced as his subject for a recent Sunday morning, "A Costly Purchase," the theme being, "The Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood." A reporter of *The New York Herald*, went at least four miles from the Brooklyn end of the Bridge to the church supposing that the sermon was to be on the retention of the Philippines, and was chagrined to find only the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ was to be preached. How a minister of the Gospel who is sure that hungry, longing souls are present, and perhaps some poor, disconsolate being without God and without hope in the world, who may be meditating self-destruction, or some one fancying that he has sinned away the day of grace, or some believer whom satan desires to sift, can consume the few moments he has to upbuild, to entreat, to convert, to save by such jejune ideas as his limited knowledge of one of the greatest questions any nation ever had to settle, before even the Peace Commissioners have met, passes comprehension. Bids for cheap popularity should have no place in the hour devoted to religious worship. Many a man, unless he dies in a state of deception, will in hours of reflection toward the end of his days be heard to say, Would that I had preached the Gospel!

"The noblest opportunity God gives to men is that of testifying, with lips which He himself has touched, to the glory of His character, to the majestic grace of His plans, to the work which men of a consecrated spirit may do for Him in the world."

Ohio State Liquor League

The seventh Annual Convention of the Ohio State Liquor League was held at Tiffin, Ohio, September 14, 1898. A banquet was tendered the League at which several addresses were made. It is not our purpose to report this convention. That would hardly be in place in a religious paper. Yet that our people may know what kind of men we are sending to the state and national legislatures it may be well to give in substance a few of the speeches, one by the congressman of the 13th district. The City Solicitor, Henry P. Black, introduced as Toastmaster of the evening the "greatest orator in Ohio, congressman J. A. Norton." Among other things the speaker said:

I know the fight you have made; my hand goes out to you because you have made lawful and respectable the business derided by bigots. You support the paupers of my state. You are not trying to degrade and violate law but to respect and obey it. Any State that is not liberal with its citizens on this question is unpatriotic and un-Christian. The wrath of the Divine Creator is invoked against you not by men who love their God, but by hypocrites in the churches. In the name of the Master greater crimes have been committed against God than have been committed by men in your business. You ought not to have to carry on your business in the dark. Public opinion ought not to be against you. I would be glad if it were possible by one stroke of the hand to remove every screen from in front of every saloon in this country, and I would say to the public everywhere, I have paid for my license, or I have paid my tax, and I am doing an upright business and do not intend to violate the law.

In closing the speaker said he thought it was wrong, radically wrong, that the churches should be against them. Remarks should not be necessary. Every member of the Christian church should rise up in his might and resent at the polls the impudence of the man who will dare insult and blaspheme the God whom we serve, and impugn the motive of the most sincere, earnest Christian men of the nation. Yes, so say we, "you ought not to have to carry on your business in the dark." But as long as that kind of business is carried on at all it must be carried on in the dark for in the light it will not prosper. Men who have a spark of respectability about them, who have any regard for their friends and their families, will not touch the foul business unless they can get a screen between themselves and the public. It is the business that loves darkness rather than light. So the Honorable (?) congressman thinks it wrong that the churches are against the liquor business. What does he imagine the church is in this world for. To help damn men and women? As long as it is the business of the churches to fight the devil so

long they must fight the saloon, for the saloon is the stronghold of the devil. There is no other one agency by which satan accomplishes as much as he does thro the saloon. Christ came into the world to destroy the works of the devil, and not only the saloon, but the entire liquor business—every phase of it without an exception—is the work of the devil. The man who supports the church, that is if his heart is in it, can not support the saloon. That is an impossibility. We may as well understand this matter with a degree of clearness. There is not a loyal church member in all the land who supports the saloon. More than that, he who would be loyal to Christ must fight the saloon with all the power God has given him. It is a mean, dishonorable, soul-destroying, infamous business, and should never be tolerated in a civilized land. Let the liquor men rage and imagine vain things, but the church of the living God must move forward in the grand triumphs of truth, conquering its enemy, than which there is none greater than the saloon, that breeder of vice and anarchy.

PARABLES

While Faith slept, Worry broke in at the back door.

"I love to visit the palaces of the rich," said Virtue as she entered the humble cottage of Contentment.

"Whither goest thou?" said Satan to Death. "To the wedding of Ambition and Fame," replied Death.

When you invite Folly, make room also for Remorse.

I found Adversity toiling from morn till night with heavy beams and stones. "What buildest thou?" said I. "The palace of peace," replied Adversity.

Once it so happened that Charity fell among her enemies. Sin rushed from a hidden covert and brandished a fatal dart, but a look of divine pity from that serene face brought even a blush of shame to the hardened countenance of Sin, and she slunk back into the darkness from which she had emerged. Then came Hate, distorted and hideous with passion, but in a moment he covered his face and fled into a far wilderness. Next Ambition strutted loftily into the presence of Charity, his hand upon the hilt of his sword; but in a moment all his boasted courage was gone, and he groveled in the dust at her feet. At last Gossip appeared, a gaudy and painted figure waving a scented fan; and at the sight of this last enemy Charity fainted, and would have fallen and perished but for an unseen arm which snatched her away from the midst of her foes.

B. C. M.

The words which thou has uttered,
Are of thy soul a part,
And the good seed thou hast scattered,
Is springing from the heart.